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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/803,509	03/09/2001	Hisashi Nagata	55688(904)	6130
21874	7590	11/16/2004	EXAMINER	
EDWARDS & ANGELL, LLP P.O. BOX 55874 BOSTON, MA 02205			MENGISTU, AMARE	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2673	

DATE MAILED: 11/16/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/803,509	Applicant(s) NAGATA ET AL.	
	Examiner Amare Mengistu	Art Unit 2673	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 October 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-31 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 24-31 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,5,9 and 16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 3,4,6-8 and 10 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>6/8/01; 6/16/03; 9/15/03; 10/22/03</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Claims 11-15, 17-23 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected species, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in the reply filed on 10/20/04.

Claim Objections

2. Claim 1 is objected to because of the following informalities: in claims 1 and 2, at the end of the first paragraph the phrase "***the method comprising the step of***" should be changed to "***the method comprising the step of***:" in claim 1, the last 5 lines the word "***respectively***:" should be replaced with "***respectively***₁". Appropriate correction is required.

Drawings

3. Figures 1 and 32 should be designated by a legend such as --**Prior Art**-- because only that which is old is illustrated. See MPEP § 608.02(g). Corrected drawings in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.121(d)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 1,2,5,9 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by **Aoki (6,563,478)**.

As to claims 1,2,16, Aoki discloses a data transfer method in which scanning lines in a row direction and signal lines in a column direction are formed in a matrix pattern, and a data signal which corresponds to a position on the matrix is applied within one horizontal period to a signal line which corresponds to this position, the signal lines being divided into a plurality of blocks and being sequentially conducted for each line per block so as to transfer the data signal between a matrix section and a data transfer section with respect to each block, the method comprising the step of :

at least one pair of the blocks respectively having signal lines which are adjacent to each other among which a block for which the application of the data signal is finished earlier is BL1 (see, fig.16 (B1), col.4, lines 12-24), and a block for which the application of the data signal is finished later is BL2 (fig.16 (B2), col.4, lines 12-24), the blocks BL1 and BL2 having adjacent signal lines SL1 (fig.16 (S1)) and SL2 (fig.16 (S2)), respectively, conducting [inverting] the SL2 as preliminary

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conduction [with respect to the reference voltage] (see, col.1, lines 35-54) within one horizontal period prior to the time the application of the data signal to the BL1 is finished as normal conduction for applying the data signal (see, fig.17 (S2) and (B1)).

As to claims 5,9, **Aoki** further teaches that the preliminary conduction of the BL2 is carried out during the normal conduction period of the BL1 within said one horizontal period (see, fig.17 (B2, B1)).

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claims 24-31 are allowed.
7. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Aoki or the cited references has failed to teach applicant claimed invention "***An active-matrix substrate...with respect to at least one target block of at least two adjacent blocks, the data signal is applied to a control wire of an adjacent block earlier than a control wire of the target block within one horizontal period, and a signal line of the target block on a border between the adjacent blocks is preliminarily supplied with a preliminary polarity inverse signal for inverting a polarity of a voltage of the signal line of the target block, by an auxiliary signal line switching element which is controlled by being supplied with an auxiliary control signal from another auxiliary control wire which is different from the control wire of the target block, and which is different from the signal line switching element which***

is controlled by the control wire of the target block, prior to the time the supply of the data signal to the adjacent block is finished within one horizontal period."

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

8. Claims 3,4,6-8,10 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: the Aoki reference has failed to teach the recitation of the claims "***the signal lines of the plurality of blocks are simultaneously conducted within said one horizontal period prior to the time the application of the data signal to the BL1 is finished***"; "***wherein, during the preliminary conduction of the BL2, the signal line BL2 which is being preliminarily conducted receives a data signal having intermediate intensity between a maximum value and a minimum value of data signals which are applied to the signal lines***" and "***the preliminary conduction of the BL2 is finished at the time when the normal conduction of the BL1 is finished within said one horizontal period, and normal conduction of the BL2 is carried out continuously thereafter.***"

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9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Amare Mengistu whose telephone number is (703)305-4880. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F,T-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Bipin Shalwala can be reached on (703)305-4938. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Amare Mengistu
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2673

AM
11/11/04